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REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. 24 Nov. 1953

SUBJECT Organization of the Chemical Warfare
Training Center, Fagaras

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DATE OF IN

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. [redacted] there were permanent Party cadre officers and men at the Center. Besides the (Provisional) School Battalions, over which the Chemical Center had a coordinating function [redacted] there was a permanent Household Company (Companie de Gospodarie) of approximately 120 men and a Communications Company of approximately 130 men at the Chemical Center in Fagaras. Instructors for the various school battalions were administratively subordinate to the Chemical Center. There were 100 - 200 instructors at the Center; 90% were army officers and 10% civilians. [redacted] Most of the instructors at the Center were borrowed from tactical chemical warfare units and taught at the Center from two months to a year. Commanding General: General-Major DAMIAN was assisted by Colonel DOBRESCU, who was also Chief of Schools at the Center. DOBRESCU was relieved of his duties, possibly Spring of 1952. [redacted]
2. There were nine separate courses of chemical warfare instruction under the supervision of the Center. These chemical warfare courses were called "Schools" and those with 300 students or more were organized into (provisional) battalions. It is to be noted that, in addition to the above nine school units, there was also one tactical TO&E unit (the 42nd CW Mixed Battalion) under the supervision of and located at the Center.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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ARMY review completed.

USAF review completed.

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a. CW Officers' School Battalion (Batalion Scoala Ofiteri Chemic).

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- (2) Upon completion of the four-week basic training period, some of the officer candidates were rejected and the strength of the Chemical Warfare Officers' School battalion was approximately 340 men, supervised by 17 officers. Each man wore a regulation Rumanian army officer's uniform, without, however, the officer's insignia. The soldiers were referred to as "elevi" (students), and were to receive commissions as full lieutenants (Locotenent) upon graduation in June 1952.

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The students [] did not wear a distinctive chemical warfare insignia. [] the officers at the Chemical Center wore the insignia of the arm of service in which they were commissioned - viz., artillery, infantry, cavalry, etc. [] no particular insignia for the Chemical Corps but

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"in the near future" the Chemical Warfare Corps was to have a skull and crossbones insignia and that chemical warfare officers would be issued the Soviet officer's dress uniform.

[] stocks of the new Soviet-type uniforms in storage at the Chemical Center and described as: a gray-green tunic and sky blue breeches;

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[] black boots were to be worn. Soldiers in the chemical arm were to retain the regular Rumanian army uniform, the new insignia being their only distinction from the other branches of service.

- (3) [] unit was housed and instructed in the four-story caserne building []

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- (4) The Officers' School Battalion was organized into three companies, each platoon with three squads. The chain of command for [] School Battalion was as follows:

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(a) Commander of School [] - Lt. Col. COPAESCU.

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(b) Chief of Studies - Lt. Col. TEOFILESCU. In the early Spring of 1952 Lt. Col. COPAESCU was relieved of his duties and replaced by Lt. Col. TEOFILESCU.

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(c) Commander of Officers' School Battalion [redacted] - 25X1
Major NICOLA, Marin (Infantry).

(d) Political Deputy - Lt. PANOIT (Mountain Troops).

(e) 1st Company Commanding Officer - Lt. Major (Sr. Lt.) NITULESCU.

1. Political Deputy - a Lieutenant, name unknown.

a. 1st Platoon C.O. - Lt. name unknown.

b. 2nd Platoon C.O. - Lt. name unknown.

c. 3rd Platoon C.O. - Lt. name unknown.

(f) 2nd Company Commanding Officer - Captain, Name unknown.

1. Political Deputy - Lt. BORDEI.

a. 1st Platoon C.O. - Lt. PINTILIE, (Mountain Troops).

b. 2nd Platoon C.O. - Lt. Maj. BOBES, (cavalry).

c. 3rd Platoon C.O. - Lt. Maj. MURESEANU, (Infantry)

(g) 3rd Company C.O. Lt. Maj. PRODAN.

1. Political Deputy - Lt. BALAN.

a. 1st Platoon C.O. - Lt. Maj. STAICU, Ioan.

b. 2nd Platoon C.O. - Lt. Name unknown, (Infantry).

c. 3rd Platoon C.O. - Lt. SIMON [redacted] 25X1

(5) In Spring of 1952 a (Provisional School) platoon of Security Troops and a (Provisional School) platoon of Border Guards which had been receiving the same chemical warfare instruction [redacted] were dissolved and the personnel were integrated into the platoons of [redacted] School Battalion. Each platoon had approximately 35 men assigned. They were also officer candidates. [redacted] these two platoons were dissolved so that it would be more difficult to determine the exact number of such troops undergoing chemical warfare training. [redacted] 25X1

b. The second Chemical Warfare Officers' School Battalion [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] the students of this battalion were known and considered to be of a higher political reliability [redacted] They also followed a one-year chemical warfare course; however, [redacted] their course included "high level" chemical warfare instruction. Some of the students were to go to Moscow for further chemical warfare specialty training after graduation.

c. Chemical Warfare Political Officers' School Battalion [redacted]
[redacted] strength 320-340 officers, length of course six months. [redacted] the course began in October 1951

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and ended in March 1952. The officers varied in rank from Lt. Major to Lt. Col. [redacted] "several" middle-aged men in civilian dress had arrived in October 1951; however, after several days they also wore officers' uniforms. [redacted] not certain whether they were commissioned directly or were actually recalled reserve officers. Personnel of this school were billeted and instructed in a four-story brick caserne [redacted] After the officers finished the political course in March 1952, the building which they had occupied was being prepared to house 800 chemical warfare officer candidates [redacted]

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- d. NCO Instructor Battalion, APO No. unknown, strength approximately 350 NCO's, length of course - six months. This battalion was composed of personnel from all branches of the Rumanian Army and included Navy and "many" Air Force personnel. [redacted] they were being trained to become chemical warfare instructors and that upon completion of the course they would return to their home units. [redacted] a continuous course and [redacted] a new class arrived every six months. Personnel attending this course were billeted and instructed at the Chemical Commissariat in Fagaras. [redacted] However they were subordinate to the Chemical Center.

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- e. Reserve Officers' Chemical Warfare Course: - strength about 100 officers, length of course two months. A new class arrived every two months. [redacted]

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[redacted] officers in this course returned to civilian life after termination of the two months' classes.

- f. Chemical Warfare Familiarization Course: this one- to two-month continuous course always had a strength of about 40 field grade officers and 50 - 60 company grade officers. The company and the field grade officers attended different classes. [redacted] officers from all branches of the Rumanian Army and [redacted] by the "many" Air Force officers who attended. [redacted] there was an average of eight Navy officers in each new class. [redacted] this course had been established to familiarize Rumanian forces officers with chemical warfare techniques.

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- g. Reserve NCO Chemical Warfare Battalion: this two-month continuous course always had a strength of about 340 NCO's. [redacted] they were middle-aged [redacted] ment of the 1931 contingent and upward who were recalled to active duty for a two-month period. [redacted] they were very dissatisfied to leave their civilian occupations, even on a temporary basis. [redacted]

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- h. Chemical Warfare Medical Officers' Course: this two- or three-month continuous course always had a strength of about 40 young doctors. [redacted] most of the doctors arrived at the Chemical Center in civilian clothes and after a few days appeared in officers' uniforms with the rank of second lieutenant. [redacted] the young men had just finished their studies. The doctors were to become medical officers for the Chemical Warfare Arm.

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- i. Administrative Officers' Course: this three-month continuous course always had a strength of about 40 officers. [redacted]

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the graduates of this course were to serve in the Chemical Arm.

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3. 42nd Chemical Warfare Mixed Battalion (Batalionul Chimic 42 Mixt):
unknown, strength about 350 men and officers.

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this was a tactical TO&E chemical warfare unit which was housed within the Chemical Center complex. the Battalion to be subordinate to the Chemical Center and stated that the artillery pieces

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belonged to this unit. It was called a "mixed" unit because the various specialties of chemical warfare were incorporated into the unit. open-air artillery classes given to men in this unit; however, no firing was done in the vicinity of the Center. this unit left the Center twice, between May 1951 and May 1952, and may have taken part in some war games. No further information.

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4. The Chemical Commissariat in the south central part of Fagaras, as stated before, coordinated the recruiting of men into the Chemical Warfare Arm. whether this Commissariat had only regional responsibilities or whether it coordinated national recruiting requirements, or whether it was only an administrative unit subordinate to the Center. The NCO Instructors' School Battalion was located in the Commissariat complex. However, this school was subordinate to the Chemical Center. had taken food three or four times to soldier prisoners of the Chemical Center who were held in the jail at the Commissariat.

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SOVIET INFLUENCE:

5. General DAMIAN and his staff were often seen in the company of high-ranking Soviet Officers, all of whom were in the Chemical Warfare Arm. Several of these Soviet advisers lived in Fagaras with their dependents. the officers in town wearing civilian clothing. These advisers made frequent inspections of the Chemical Center, were present at examinations, field problems, and parades. They often entered classrooms and quizzed the students, and also inspected the mess hall food, stating that if anyone was dissatisfied he should report to them. the Rumanian officers reported to these advisers on the training status.

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6. Students were informed by their instructors that during the Summer of 1952 a Soviet Chemical Warfare Regiment was to arrive in Fagaras to exchange experience and know-how with the Rumanian Chemical Warfare troops.

7. During the Winter of 1952, Rumanian Chemical Warfare officers, Soviet Chemical Warfare officers, and a few professors from the Universities of Cluj and Bucharest arrived at the Center and carried out "some experiments" in the chemical warfare laboratory. They stayed only a few days and departed. No further information.

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